

VZCZCXYZ0002
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHME #2838 2632259
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 192259Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3330
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0242

UNCLAS MEXICO 002838

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/T -- GUINNEVERE ROBERTS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KHIV UNGA EAID MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO ON UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 97114

Deputy PolCouns discussed reftel demarche 9/19 with Norma Diaz, the Director of the Office of Migration in the Foreign Ministry's Global Affairs Directorate, conveying our support for Michel Sidibe as the strongest of the candidates known to us for the position of Executive Director of the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. Diaz took on board U.S. views but noted that, to its surprise, Jorge Saavedra, the General Director of Mexico's National Center for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS had submitted his name for consideration. Diaz recognized that Sidibe brought strong credentials as the Deputy Executive Director but remarked that Mexico planned to support Saavedra's candidacy. Diaz understood a selection committee would interview the top 7-10 candidates the first week of October with a view to providing Secretary General Ban Ki-moon a short list for his final selection on the basis of the candidates' merits.

Visit Mexico City's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/mexicocity> and the North American Partnership Blog at <http://www.intelink.gov/communities/state/nap/> / GARZA